



## A Missouri Read, Lead, Exceed Initiative

### Introduction to Missouri's Evidence-Based Reading Instruction Program Funding

In the summer of 2022, the Missouri legislature approved the Evidence-Based Reading Instruction Program Fund (Senate Bill 681, Section 161.241, RSMo) to be used to reimburse local education agencies (LEAs) for efforts to improve student literacy. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) will administer this funding and provide support to LEAs as they move through the application process. These state funds, along with federal COVID-19 relief funds, will be used to improve student literacy, encourage and promote alignment with evidence-based literacy instruction practices, and overcome the learning loss resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Evidence-Based Reading Instruction Program Fund focus areas include:



Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling® (LETRS®) Training Materials for K-5 Educators



Evidence-Based Reading Instructional Materials



Future Literacy Excellence (FLEx) Early Literacy Resources for Students and Families



Teacher Stipends for LETRS® Training Assessments



Evidence-Based Foundational Reading Assessments

Each focus area contains specific eligibility and commitment requirements that center on LEA size, assessment data, and alignment with evidence-based reading instruction. The LEA may choose to apply for any or all of these focus-area funds to be reimbursed for dollars already spent that align with that particular focus area. Reimbursement for purchases made with Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds or any other federal or state funding is not allowed. While this document provides a summary of each focus area, a comprehensive guidance document will be provided at a later date. It is important for LEAs to consult with their local legal counsel and finance office regarding the reimbursement opportunities in this program.

# **Introduction to Missouri Evidence-Based Reading Instruction Program Funding**



## **FOCUS AREA: LETRS® TRAINING MATERIALS FOR K-5 EDUCATORS**

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of the LETRS® Training Materials for K-5 Educators focus area is to provide reimbursement to LEAs for the purchase of materials for K-5 educators who completed LETRS® training outside of a state- or federally-funded program.

### **IMPACT**

Approximately 3,717 educators have been trained in LETRS® prior to July 1, 2022. In addition, as of December 8, 2022, approximately 1,500 educators are currently being trained in LETRS®.

### **BUDGET**

- \$2,000,000 Evidence-Based Reading Instruction Program Fund (state funds)
  - The LETRS® training materials purchased after June 30, 2022, will be reimbursed through state funds
- \$2,479,239 ESSER II (federal funds)
  - The LETRS® training materials purchased between March 13, 2020 and June 30, 2022 will be reimbursed through federal funds

### **REQUIREMENTS**

- Funding will be provided to LEAs on a reimbursement basis.
- Grant reimbursements for LETRS® training materials must be outside of the Missouri Read, Lead, Exceed Initiative; DESE LETRS® Scholarship grants; or the Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grant.
- Reimbursement is for training materials for K-5 educators currently teaching in the district.
- Teachers must have successfully completed Volume I and Volume II of LETRS® training with a final assessment score of eighty percent or higher on both assessments.
- Reimbursement is not to exceed \$667 per educator.

### **COMMITMENTS**

The LEA will:

- maintain proof of LETRS® materials purchased for Volume I and Volume II per educator completing training for five years from the date of purchase.
- complete each application, if applicable, to request reimbursement funds.

### **ALLOWABLE EXPENSES**

Only reimbursement for purchase of LETRS® materials for K-5 educators are eligible under this focus area. If requests for reimbursement exceed available funds, LEA requests may be prorated. Because multiple state and federal funding sources are available for these materials, LEAs are advised to be very careful to claim reimbursements under only one funding source and to code those revenues and expenses properly.

### **REPORTING EXPECTATIONS**

The LEA must report the following data to DESE upon request for the:

- number of students and grade level taught by educators who received LETRS® training under this program.
- average Lexile level changes for students receiving instruction from LETRS® trained educators under this program.

# Introduction to Missouri Evidence-Based Reading Instruction Program Funding



## FOCUS AREA: EVIDENCE-BASED READING INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

### PURPOSE

The purpose of the Evidence-Based Reading Instructional Materials focus area is to provide reimbursement to LEAs for the purchase of state-approved instructional materials for K-5 classrooms.

### IMPACT

Approximately 160 LEAs meet the instructional materials reimbursement requirements. The comprehensive guidance document will contain a list of eligible LEAs and their allocation amount when it is published in early 2023.

### BUDGET

- \$5,500,000 Evidence-Based Reading Instruction Program Fund (state funds)
  - State-approved materials purchased after June 30, 2022 will be reimbursed through state funds
- \$5,000,000 ESSER II (federal funds).
  - State-approved materials purchased between March 13, 2020 and June 30, 2022 will be reimbursed through federal funds.

### REQUIREMENTS

- Funding will be provided to LEAs on a reimbursement basis.
- For an LEA to be eligible, the LEA must have a combined average of sixty-five percent or greater of students scoring at basic and below basic for years 2019, 2021, and 2022.
- Allocations are calculated by dividing the three-year average of the grade K-3 enrollment by 25 and then multiplying by \$3,700, with the minimum allocation of \$14,800. Purchases must have been made beginning July 1, 2022.
- Reimbursement is for K-5 classroom instructional materials.
- Materials purchased must be included on the state-approved list of instructional materials aligned with the science of reading.
- The LEA must create or revise a district comprehensive literacy plan that is aligned to the Missouri Read, Lead, Exceed: Steps to Success Step 1 document.

### COMMITMENTS

The LEA will:

- maintain proof of instructional materials purchased for five years from date of purchase.
- commit to a minimum of three years of implementation of the reimbursed instructional materials.
- will complete each application, if applicable, to request reimbursement funds.

### ALLOWABLE EXPENSES

Reimbursement is for the purchase of instructional materials that are included on the state-approved list of instructional materials aligned with evidence-based reading instruction and the science of reading. The LEA reimbursement cannot exceed the DESE-calculated maximum allocation for that LEA. Because multiple state and federal funding sources are available for these materials, LEAs are advised to be very careful to claim reimbursements under only one funding source and to code those revenues and expenses properly.

### REPORTING EXPECTATIONS

The LEA must report the following data to DESE upon request for the:

- grade level and number of classrooms/students receiving materials reimbursed under this program.
- number of teachers provided professional development on the effective use of the materials reimbursed.



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## FOCUS AREA: FLEx EARLY LITERACY RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

### PURPOSE

The purpose of the FLEx Early Literacy Resources for Students and Families focus area is to provide reimbursement to LEAs for the purchase of early literacy resources and materials for parents and guardians, hosting parent-literacy events, after-school reading programs, and summer reading programs. All programs and materials must align with evidence-based, science of reading instruction.

### IMPACT

All LEAs will be eligible for reimbursement of at least \$4,250. The allocation formula is based on a three-year average of the district's percentage of students scoring in basic and below basic on the third grade state assessment. The comprehensive guidance document will contain a list of eligible LEAs and their allocation amount when it is published in early 2023.

### BUDGET

- \$7,500,000 Evidence-Based Reading Instruction Program Fund (state funds)
  - Costs must be incurred after June 30, 2022 to be eligible for reimbursement through state funds.

### REQUIREMENTS

- Funding will be provided to LEAs on a reimbursement basis.
- Materials, programs, or resources purchased and provided must align with evidence-based reading instruction.
- Allocations are calculated based on a three year average of enrollment and ELA assessment data (2019, 2021, 2022).
- The LEA must commit to creating or revising a district comprehensive literacy plan that is aligned to the Missouri Read, Lead, Exceed: Steps to Success Step 1 document.

### COMMITMENTS

The LEA will:

- maintain proof of materials purchased and stipends provided for five years from date of purchase.
- complete application, if applicable, to request reimbursement funds.

### ALLOWABLE EXPENSES

Reimbursement is for the purchase of early literacy resources including but not limited to: **1) Resources for parents:** home reading apps, take-home decodable books, informational materials for parents and guardians, and resources for reading activities with children at home; **2) Parent-literacy events:** parent advocate speaker fees/materials that support and inform parents, literacy support at home, and take-home decodable texts (including disposable books); **3) After-school tutoring programs:** teacher stipends, hiring independent tutors and third-party tutoring organizations that align practices and materials with evidence-based reading instruction intervention (program must provide a minimum of 12 hours per-month per-student, data submission request for number of students who scored basic and below basic participating, and average number of tutoring hours received by students who scored basic and below basic); **4) Summer Reading Programs:** Expenses may include teacher stipends, instructional materials that align with evidence-based reading instruction, and student resources. If requests for reimbursement exceed available funds, LEA requests may be prorated. All activities and stipends must be outside of the regular summer school claimed for average daily attendance and state or local ESSER funds. Materials, programs, or resources purchased and provided must align with evidence-based reading instruction.

### REPORTING EXPECTATIONS

The LEA must report the following data to DESE upon request for the:

- number of students receiving support and/or resources reimbursed under this program.

# **Introduction to Missouri Evidence-Based Reading Instruction Program Funding**



## **FOCUS AREA: TEACHER STIPENDS FOR LETRS® TRAINING ASSESSMENTS**

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Teacher Stipends for LETRS® Training Assessments focus area is to provide reimbursement to LEAs for stipends to teachers who successfully complete the LETRS® final assessments following their LETRS® training with a score of eighty percent or higher.

### **IMPACT**

Approximately 5,250 teachers are eligible to receive stipends for successfully completing the LETRS® final assessments following the LETRS® training.

### **BUDGET**

- \$8,600,000 Evidence-Based Reading Program Fund (state funds)

### **REQUIREMENTS**

- Funding is provided to LEAs on a reimbursement basis.
- The LEA may be eligible for reimbursement for teacher stipends of actual cost up to \$500 per volume of LETRS® final assessments. Maximum reimbursement requests cannot exceed \$500 per volume per teacher.
- Teachers must score eighty percent or higher on each volume's final assessment.
- The LEA must commit to aligning instructional materials to evidence-based reading instruction.
- The LEA must commit to creating or revising a district comprehensive literacy plan that is aligned to the Missouri Read, Lead, Exceed: Steps to Success Step 1 document.
- Stipends are available for reimbursement if teachers successfully pass the final assessment on or after January 1, 2023.

### **COMMITMENTS**

The LEA will:

- maintain proof of each teacher's successful completion and stipends provided for five years from date of reimbursement.
- complete an application, if applicable, to request reimbursement funds.

### **ALLOWABLE EXPENSES**

Reimbursement is for the payment of stipends to teachers for successfully completing (eighty percent or higher) each volume's final assessment of the LETRS® training program. Reimbursement is available to all LEAs regardless of where training was received (Regional Professional Development Centers, Lexia Learning LLC., or district certified facilitators). If requests for reimbursement exceed available funds, LEA requests may be prorated. The LEA will be eligible for a \$1,000 reimbursement per teacher (\$500 per volume) who successfully completes each LETRS® volume's assessment and is a current teacher in the district. The LEA may submit applications after each successfully-completed volume assessment. Teacher stipends are only available for the LETRS® training program.

### **REPORTING EXPECTATIONS**

The LEA must report the following data to DESE upon request for the:

- grade-level and number of classrooms/students receiving instruction from LETRS® trained teachers under this program.
- total number of teachers in the district who have successfully completed Volume I and Volume II LETRS® training under this program.
- plan for training all K-5 classroom teachers in the district (including planning for turnover) in Volume I and Volume II LETRS® training.



## **Introduction to Missouri Evidence-Based Reading Instruction Program Funding**

### **FOCUS AREA: EVIDENCE-BASED FOUNDATIONAL READING ASSESSMENTS**

#### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Evidence-Based Foundational Reading Assessments focus area is to provide reimbursement to LEAs for the purchase of the required state-approved beginning and end-of-year foundational reading assessments for grades K-3.

#### **IMPACT**

Approximately 280,000 students will be involved in beginning and end-of-year foundational reading assessments.

#### **BUDGET**

- \$1,400,000 Evidence-Based Reading Program Fund (state funds)
  - Only state approved materials purchased after June 30, 2022 will be eligible for reimbursement through state funds.

#### **REQUIREMENTS**

- Funding will be provided to LEAs on a reimbursement basis.
- The LEAs are eligible for a reimbursement up to \$5 per student to support the cost of the newly-required beginning- and end-of-year assessments for students in grades K-3.
- The LEAs must commit to creating or revising a district comprehensive literacy plan that is aligned to the Missouri Read, Lead, Exceed: Steps to Success Step 1 document.

#### **COMMITMENTS**

The LEA will:

- maintain proof of each student's completion of assessment for five years from date of reimbursement
- complete application, if applicable, to request reimbursement funds

#### **ALLOWABLE EXPENSES**

Reimbursement is for the purchase of required beginning and end-of-year state approved assessments for grades K-3. If requests for reimbursement exceed available funds, LEA requests will be prorated.

#### **REPORTING EXPECTATIONS**

The LEA must report the following data to DESE upon request for the:

- name of the state-approved assessment implemented.
- total number of students assessed.
- total number of teachers trained in administering the assessment.
- assessment results.

## Appendix A:

### Allocation Table

## Evidence-Based Reading Initiatives Program

	LETRS® Training Materials for K-5 Educators	Evidence-Based Reading Instructional Materials	FLEx Early Literacy Resources for Students and Families	Teacher Stipends for LETRS Training and Assessments	Evidence-Based Foundational Reading Assessments
<b>Reimbursement Goal:</b>	LETRS® training materials for teachers	State-approved evidence-based instructional reading materials	Early literacy resources for parents and students	Teacher stipends upon successfully completing LETRS® training assessments	State-approved beginning- and end-of-year assessments
<b>Grantees:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All LEAs for K-5 educators</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>160 LEAs</li> <li>Formula based on an average of sixty-five percent of students scoring at basic and below basic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All LEAs</li> <li>Formula based on average percent of students scoring at basic and below basic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All LEAs for K-5 educators</li> <li>Maximum allocation is \$1,000 per teacher</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All LEAs</li> <li>K-3 students</li> </ul>
<b>Allowable Expenses:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LETRS® Volume I and Volume II training materials up to \$667 per teacher</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State-approved instructional materials</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parent resources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stipends for K-5 educators (\$500 per volume)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Beginning- and end-of-year assessment</li> <li>\$5 per student</li> </ul>
<b>Requirements:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Successfully complete LETRS® training and assessments for Volumes I &amp; II (eighty percent or greater)</li> <li>Current district employees; K-5 educators</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comprehensive Literacy Plan</li> <li>Utilize materials for three years</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resources aligned with state-approved instructional materials</li> <li>Report number of students receiving support through parent resources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Successfully complete LETRS® training assessment for Volume I (\$500)</li> <li>Successfully complete LETRS® training assessment for Volume II (\$500)</li> <li>On/after January 1, 2023</li> </ul>	K-3 grade State-approved assessment

	LETRS® Training Materials for K-5 Educators	Evidence-Based Reading Instructional Materials	FLEx Early Literacy Resources for Students and Families	Teacher Stipends for LETRS Training and Assessments	Evidence-Based Foundational Reading Assessments
<b>Funding Source &amp; Amount:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$2,000,000 (State)</li> <li>• \$2,479,239 ESSER II (Federal)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$9,800,000 (State)</li> <li>• \$5,000,000 ESSER II (Federal)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$7,500,000 (State)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$4,300,000 (State)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$1,400,000 (State)</li> </ul>